

Landers:

I have a very serious problem, and I'm very scared. If my husband knew, or unsuspected, about this, he'd kill all of us, so can you print your reply?

My neice and nephew (brother and sister) have been living together for 4 years. Naturally, there have been rumours, but I didn't care to beleive any of them. Well, recently my neice got pregnant, and started acting very strangely. Finally, one day while my husband was at work and my nephew had been away, she came over and "spilled her guts". She told me for the past 4 years she and her brother had been having sex, and now she's terrified the baby will be deformed or retarded. Beleive me, Ann, I was almost sick. Anyway, she feels very strongly about keeping the babay, deformed or not, and I wrote to ask you, what are the chances that the baby will come out normal? My sister is mongoloid, but other than that there is no record of anything medical in our family. We have all been of sound mind and good health. Please answer, it's very important to us.

-A PERRY, MICHIGAN READER